



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
for KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS

# The NoDak News

Publication of North Dakota State Organization

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**Delta Kappa  
Gamma App**

available for both  
the IOS &  
Android devices.

## 2021 Upcoming Events

### Save the Dates!

#### ND State Conference

June 2-3, 2021  
Bismarck, ND

#### International Conference

July 7-9, 2021  
Portland, OR

## North Dakota Delta Kappa Gamma Advancing Key Women Educators for Life Coming to Learn, Learning to Serve

### The seven purposes of the society are:

- to unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship;
- to honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education;
- to advance the professional interest and position of women in education;
- to initiate, endorse, and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interests of education and of women educators;
- to endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to non-member women educators;
- to stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action; and
- to inform the members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.

## President's Ponderings



North Dakota State  
President, Ann Braaten

Greetings North  
Dakota Delta Kappa  
Gamma Sisters,

What an interesting  
year 2020 has turned  
out to be! The rising  
incidence of  
COVID-19 cases has

forced us to limit our social contacts, making virtual meetings through Zoom more common place. I missed gathering for our state conference in Bismarck this past June and was very pleased we could connect through Zoom for our Fall Workshop. At NDSU, two of my three classes are offered HyFlex, allowing students to meet in the classroom or join through Zoom from the safety of their home synchronously or asynchronously. I miss the in-person interactions with people, but appreciate being able to meet virtually.

Thanks to everyone who was able to join our Aug. 11, 2020, Fall Workshop through Zoom. The format worked much better than our previous virtual meeting in 2019, and allowed us to interact and move the business of the State Organization forward. Members voted to hold the North Dakota State Organization Convention on June 2 and 3, 2021, in Bismarck, or via Zoom on the same days if it is unwise to gather in public. Gamma Chapter will serve as host chapter. We will vote for new State Officers, consider changes to the state bylaws and policies and procedures, and since we didn't hold a meeting this past June,

will include training for chapter officers and enrichment.

One possible change to our Standing Rules is to offer a new membership category "State-wide Member." This membership category would allow members who may not have a chapter geographically close by them to be an active member of the State Organization. If approved, state-wide members would have all the benefits of membership, including voting on amendments, and attending conventions and conferences, but would not have to attend chapter meetings nor pay chapter dues. Please discuss this possible change at your chapter meeting and offer any suggestions and concerns.

My thanks go out to the State Rules Committee for reviewing Chapter Standing Rules. The rules need to be in harmony with the International Constitution and State Organization Bylaws. It is especially important since we are a non-profit organization. Thank you to Chapters for completing this responsibility. The Committee would like to wrap this up before Dec. 31, 2020, so if you haven't yet sent your Chapter's in for review, please do.

Our wonderful NoDak News Editor, Judy Walter, Gamma Chapter, has indicated that she will be done as Editor when she completes her term and that a new NoDak News Editor will be needed. We are working to determine whether her term is complete in June of 2021, or June of 2022. Meanwhile, please consider whether you are interested in taking on this role, or if there is a member in your chapter who would be a good candidate. My thanks to Judy for her excellent work at the helm of NoDak news.

## President's Ponderings continued

Three ideas for presentations at the chapter level about Education Excellence are offered as PowerPoint programs through [dkg.org](http://dkg.org). In addition, five short videos on DKG Core Values from DKG Next committee are available through Convention 2020 highlights: 1. Collegiality, 2. Global Emphasis, 3. Leadership, 4. Philanthropy, 5. Personal and Professional Growth. Thank you to the Chapters which included these core values in their program booklets.

Thank you to all of the wonderful women who are part of North Dakota State Organization of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. It's been such a great pleasure getting to know members as I visit with chapters across the state. This Fall I met with Lambda Chapter in Rugby in September, Delta Chapter in Bismarck, and will meet with Tau Chapter in Wahpeton on November 24. This Spring I hope to meet with Pi, Xi, and Phi, either in person or through Zoom. Let me know what works best for you.

Meanwhile, stay healthy! We will get through this pandemic together!

-Ann Braaten, President  
North Dakota State Organization  
[annbraaten1@gmail.com](mailto:annbraaten1@gmail.com)  
701-361-8018

## Musings from the State Membership Committee

-Jan Reppow, State Membership Chairperson

Greetings from the Membership Committee! During these stressful times, it is more important than ever to keep in touch with out

DKG chapter members through phone calls, emails, and cards. What a delight to hear a familiar voice or receive a personal message to let one know that others are thinking of them. Please take the time to connect!

Also, as a reminder, each chapter president should complete Form 6 immediately after the death of a member. These forms are found on the DKG website, [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org). You must log in to your account. The form is available in Forms/Membership.

The completed copy should be emailed to the following people:

Membership Services [mem@dkg.org](mailto:mem@dkg.org)

State Treasurer, Lavone Mongeon  
[lavonemongeon@gmail.com](mailto:lavonemongeon@gmail.com)

State Membership Chairperson, Jan Reppow  
[jan.l.reppow@minotstateu.edu](mailto:jan.l.reppow@minotstateu.edu)

Our Remembrance Ceremony will be held when we gather in June and will honor all those who have passed away since June 2019.

Since June 2019, the membership has only received one Form 6! Please check this out and send if you may have overlooked this process.

**Please wear your mask, social distance, and reach out to your DKG sisters!**



# International Convention

## *Catch the Spirit of the Pacific Northwest!*

Have you thought about how you can make a difference in DKG? President Becky Sadowski has encouraged us to consider how we can find meaningful opportunities to contribute and to make a difference for a positive impact on women and children in our world. Join us in Portland, Oregon for “DKG: A World of Opportunities, Contributions, Impact” for the International Conference on July 7-9, 2021.

The Marriott Portland Downtown Waterfront Hotel adjacent to a waterfront park on the Willamette River will provide for your comfort. Inspiring speakers, informative workshops and takeaways, and fun in the art gallery, exhibits, and vendors will stimulate you! Consider a trip to the Columbia River Gorge with Multnomah Falls, venture to the first western settlement along the Pacific Ocean (Astoria), and sightsee the beautiful Rose, Japanese, and Chinese gardens in the city of Portland. Shopping at the home of Nike, Columbia Crest, Adidas, and Pendleton Woolen Mills is in your future. Plan your DKG future NOW!



## Meet Your Updated ND Chapter Presidents

**Beta** Ann Braaten  
[annbraaten1@gmail.com](mailto:annbraaten1@gmail.com)

**Delta** Pam Baker  
[p\\_zimmerle@outlook.com](mailto:p_zimmerle@outlook.com)

**Epsilon Mu** Kathy Ashe  
[ashekathy@hotmail.com](mailto:ashekathy@hotmail.com)

**Gamma** Emily Schaefer  
[emily.m.schaefer@gmail.com](mailto:emily.m.schaefer@gmail.com)

**Lambda** Brenda Seehafer  
[brenda.Seehafer@k12.nd.us](mailto:brenda.Seehafer@k12.nd.us)

**Nu** Nancy Pearson  
[pearsnan@yahoo.com](mailto:pearsnan@yahoo.com)  
Holly Eidsness -Assisting  
[eidsness@minot.com](mailto:eidsness@minot.com)

**Pi** Linda Holm-Peterson  
[linda.holmpeterson@gmail.com](mailto:linda.holmpeterson@gmail.com)

**Xi** Melissa Plesuk  
[melissa.plesuk@k12.nd.us](mailto:melissa.plesuk@k12.nd.us)

**Phi** Wanda Melhoff  
[wanda.mehlhoff@k12.nd.us](mailto:wanda.mehlhoff@k12.nd.us)  
June Kraft  
[travel49states@aol.com](mailto:travel49states@aol.com)

**Tau** Peggy Donahe  
[pdonahe@midco.net](mailto:pdonahe@midco.net)

**Zeta** Rebecca Edlund



**The U.S. Forum Steering Committee**  
Invites you to attend via Zoom:  
**“Amending the Gap:  
The 19<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Amendments”**  
**Thursday, November 19, 2020 7 p.m. EST**  
**(6 p.m. CST, 5 p.m. MST, 4 p.m. PST)**  
featuring

**Dr. Gayle Seymour, Beta AR**

**Associate Dean and Professor  
University of Central Arkansas**

Join us via Zoom for a presentation about the ongoing fight for equality for women, represented by the 19<sup>th</sup> and [28<sup>th</sup>] Amendments, by Dr. Gayle Seymour, Professor Art History and Associate Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at the University of Central Arkansas. Dr. Seymour will discuss women’s fight for the vote, leading to the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1920, the rise of the Equal Rights Amendment (what would be the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment), and the ongoing fight for its ratification to the U.S. Constitution. Dr. Seymour will also discuss the role the arts played in these movements in history and today.



*Dr. Gayle Seymour*

**Please register in advance for this webinar by 11/16/2020 at:**

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpc2gpj8qE9XsHbakuRkGi\\_h6P5RerB0k](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpc2gpj8qE9XsHbakuRkGi_h6P5RerB0k)**

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**For further information contact US Forum Chair Barbara Bostwick-Quinn at [barbarabquinn@rochester.rr.com](mailto:barbarabquinn@rochester.rr.com)**

# Scholarship and Grant Opportunities

***Deadlines: February 1, 2021***

***For more information and applications refer to the State DKG website: [northdakotadkg.weebly.com](http://northdakotadkg.weebly.com).***

**The Adeline Stevenson Nurse Scholarship** in the amount of \$1500 will be awarded in 2021. Applications are due on Feb. 1, 2021. Scholarship recipients are required to have been a member of DKG for three years. Applicants are asked to submit academic and employment history, statement of your education and objectives including your field of specialization and place of study, three letters of reference, and official transcripts of hour college credits. Send applications by mail to Beta Chapter President Ann Braaten, 1301 5th Street North, Fargo, ND 58102, or by Email to [annbraaten1@gmail.com](mailto:annbraaten1@gmail.com).

**Golden Grants** (\$100-\$1000) are available to eligible ND DKG members for the purpose of enhancing educational activities. Such activities include school or classroom projects, seminar or conference attendance, school visitations, & funding for educational research. It is time for to check out the Golden Grants information on the state website. We are very proud to offer this opportunity to any member who has paid Society dues for three years. Here are a few of the guidelines for Grant disbursement: A grant may be in any amount between \$100 and \$1000 when funds are available, if several worthy projects are proposed, the Golden Grants Committee may decide to give partial grants; Grant applicants must predict the educational benefits they expect to result for themselves, their chapters, schools, communities, the state organization, and/or the profession. Grant recipients must evaluate the extent of those actual benefits in their final reports which will be sent to the Golden Grants Committee 30 days after the completion of the activity.

**The Hazel B. Nielson Scholarship** (\$1500) is available to DKG members who are pursuing advanced degrees in academic areas and have been members for at least two years.

(See the flyer on the next page for more information.)

## Contact The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Mail: 416 West 12th Street  
Austin, TX 78701-1817

Telephone: (512) 478-5748

Toll-free: (888) 762-4685

Fax number: (512) 478-3961

## ***DKG International website***

is up-to-date and full of information. Please refer to the website for answers to many questions you may have.

**<http://www.dkg.org>**

***North Dakota website***

**<http://northdakotadkg.weebly.com>**

# Hazel B. Nielson Scholarship

## \$1500



### Who should apply?

*Delta Kappa Gamma members who are pursuing graduate studies, an endorsement, or credential.*

### How do you apply?

- Log on to the DKG website @ [northdakotadkg.weebly.com](http://northdakotadkg.weebly.com)
- Click on “Documents and Forms” and then on “Hazel B. Nielson.”
- Complete the forms and recommendations and mail to:

Wanda Follman

4941 67<sup>th</sup> St. NE

York, ND 58386

OR: [wanda.follman@k12.nd.us](mailto:wanda.follman@k12.nd.us)

**Deadline is February 1, 2021**

# Chapter Communications

## \*Delta

Our September meeting was held on Dotti Schmeling's outdoor patio. We socially distanced on the beautiful afternoon and briefly took off our masks and snapped a



quick photo!

Randi Wahn, the chapter's scholarship recipient was the speaker. She shared some of her personal background as well as her career background. Randi is now student teacher and has joined Delta Chapter as a collegiate member.



Ann Braaten was the guest speaker at the October meeting. The chapter met via Zoom. We welcomed two new members. Pam Ihmels and Kathy Rooke.

Four Delta members are serving on the state level. Sherry Heaton is the 2nd Vice President, Bev Patch-Larson is a member of the Budget Committee, Diana Schneider serves on the Leadership Committee and Kathy Rooke agreed to be on the Music Committee.

Lorraine Lutjens and Donna Knutson delivered backpacks to AARC, Wednesday, July 22. Delta Chapter donates backpacks for students in school yearly.



# Chapter Communications

## \*Nu

Congratulations to Jackie Geiger upon her retirement from Minot Public Schools. Jackie served for 12 years as a counselor at Washington Elementary School. We wish her the best in her new endeavors.



Congratulations to Lynda Bertsch who was inducted into Nu Chapter at the Scandinavian Heritage Park in June.

Co-presidents Sandy Starr & Dawn Freeman & Co-Second Vice President Bonny Berryman performed the ceremony.



Co-Second Vice President Bonny Berryman was elected to the Minot Public School School Board. She taught or subbed all grades except Kindergarten and First Grade. She also helped put together a program for gifted youth. She tested, taught and advocated for these students. Recently, Bonny has served as

a long-term substitute teacher, a full-time para and a para substitute.



Melissa Stanley, who is pictured campaigning for Bonny, is very grateful to have had Bonny as her Cooperating Teacher while student teaching.

Sara Medalen, Elementary Reading and Math Interventionist at Sunnyside Elementary, is one of 5 US educators to be selected for the Prestigious 2021 Horace Mann



Award for Teaching Excellence from the National Education Association. Sara was chosen for her unending dedication to students, colleagues and to the Minot community.



On June 5th, Sara Medalen, the 2020 North Dakota Teacher of the Year and North Dakota United member, spoke as an advocate for students and teachers at a Black Lives Matter Protest Celebration, at Island Park in Fargo.

# Chapter Communications

## \*Nu continued

In July, Joyce Alme, flute, and Rochelle Feldner, trombone, performed with the Minot City Band in Minot's beautiful Oak Park at the Annual John Phillips Sousa Concert. The format for the concert was sectional ensembles and the entire band performed one selection, the most famous JP Sousa march, "The Stars & Stripes Forever."

was not held in May, we celebrated Nu Chapter's 40th Birthday with wonderful cupcakes and sang a resounding rendition of HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



*Pic: Officers L to R: Joyce Alme, Vice President I; Sue Thompson, Vice President II; Bonny Berryman, Co-Vice President II; Maria Carpenter, Recording Secretary; Laurel Weigelt, Treasurer; Nancy Person, President, and Sandy Starr, Assistant Past President.*



Nu's Executive committee honored Kathy Thiel with a beautiful hanging plant for her seven years as our treasurer and serving as ex officio on the Finance Committee. Thank you Kathy!



There were "no further nominations from the floor" via email, thus, on September 12, the Induction of the Nu Officers for 2020-2022 was held at our Fall Meeting at the Minot Moose Lodge. Members enjoyed a wonderful fall brunch and it was great to visit with members via social distancing. Since a meeting



*Past President Dawn Freeman and Assistant Past President are pictured with Nu's 2020-2022 President, Nancy Pearson. Holly Eidsness, Assistant President (not pictured).*

Mary McNally, General Music teacher at Edison Elementary School, received the Hazel B. Nielsen scholarship for 2020.

The 7th Annual Nu Chapter Wine Social & Scholarship Fundraiser was held in Jeannie Sovak's beautiful backyard. This fundraiser is hosted by past Nu Presidents and is a great time to socialize with our sisters and prospective new members.

# Chapter Communications

## \*Nu continued

Delta Kappa Gamma International - Nu Chapter's 2020-2021 Scholarship Grant was presented to Lynn Harlow Braaten who is a Double Major in Special Education and Deaf Education at Minot State University. Congratulations Lynn!



*Pic: Scholarship L to R: Deb Schultz, Educational Excellence Committee, Co-Chair & Lynn Harlow Braaten.*

The Minot Chamber Chorale and the Minot State University Concert Choir presented a virtual performance of "I Will Go On", a poem written by Mia Weise, a freshman at Des Lacs-Burlington High School. The poem was written about the pandemic. The Chorale sponsored a poetry contest that eventually became the lyrics for a vocal piece for the Chorale to perform. Music was written by Dr. Emerson Eads, Musical Director of the Minot Chamber Chorale and the MSU Concert Choir. Nu Sisters that performed "I Will Go

On" were Brenda Demke, Pam Hopkins, Laurel Livingston, Cheryl Nielsen, Jazmine Schultz and Jeannie Sovak. Jazmine Shultz was the soloist.

Cheryl Nielsen, Minot State University's Summer Theatre Board President and other MSU and community dignitaries, helped break ground for MSU's Summer Theatre renovation project. The Project will be in two phases and is targeted for completion by May 2022.



*\*Please remember to send a notice to The NoDak News editor with the names and write-up of any sisters who pass, so we can honor and remember them.*

### ***Our Beloved Departed DKG Sisters***

(Click on Their name to read obituary)

- [Dr. Doris Slaaten](#) - Gamma

- [Lillian Wilson](#) - Gamma



# Chapter Communications

## \*Beta

Beta Chapter is meeting through the Zoom video conferencing. Each month we begin our meeting with the hostess leading the question. In November members were asked “What was a highlight of your month?” and in October “What are you doing to deal with the COVID-19 Pandemic?” It is a fun way to get to know members better and to learn about the ups and downs in their lives.



*September 2020 Meeting via Zoom. from top left: Betty Patterson, Ann Braaten, Gerry Flaig, Verna LaBounty, Jan Flack (who joined by phone in blank square) Mari Borr, Linda Manikowske, Donna Terbizan, Ginger Dietz, and Jolyn Krabbenhoft.*

Beta Chapter kicked off the 2020-2021 programing year with a program by Ruth Hogleund sharing her experiences teaching the blind in the Fargo Public Schools (FPS) starting in 1959, and in preparing teachers of visually-impaired students at the University of North Dakota, University of Minnesota and Minnesota State University-Moorhead. Ruth was an on-call teacher for FPS when her youngest son, Stanley, came home from school

saying he had two fellow students in kindergarten who were blind. Shortly after she was asked by the FPS superintendent if she were interested in working with these students. She said yes and developed the first program for blind students in a public school in the nation. As her students advanced and additional students entered the program, she completed specialized training and earned her Master's in Special Education from Minnesota State University-Moorhead. Ruth said that a scholarship awarded by Delta Kappa Gamma helped fund her advanced training to teach the blind. She has been a loyal member of DKG since 1963.

In October, Beta Chapter member Ginger Dietz shared her work with Fargo's First Presbyterian Church mission in Kenya. She and Sharon Secor have worked for 26 years with residents in the village of Chogoria, Kenya, to improve their community services. Their school now meets Kenyan government certification requirements for governmental placement of teachers. Their work, along with others in the Presbyterian Church, have helped in bringing water to the village rather than having to walk two kilometers to the river, in setting-up composting latrines with privacy doors and a hand-washing station, and in improving the healthcare services for the area. Ginger highlighted this wonderful partnership that allows the wealth, knowledge, and energy of people here to be shared with Kenyans to work to improve their lives, while respecting the local community needs and preferences. It was really impressive to see the many transformations the 26-year commitment has supported.

# Chapter Communications

## \*Beta continued

On November 7, Vimbayi Chinopfukutwa, a doctoral candidate studying Developmental Science at NDSU spoke to Beta Chapter about education in the southern African nation of Zimbabwe. She described the grading system in primary schooling as being indirect, with the top score being 1 and the lowest score being 4, and that parents are the ones who decide whether to have their child move forward to the next grade-level or to re-take a school year. The literacy rate of the adult population in Zimbabwe is at 88.7% percent and has been increasing each year thanks to Zimbabwe's strong educational system. Vimbayi's research interests include positive and problem behaviors in adolescents' development and ways of enriching their lives. Through her graduate work, she developed an interest in evaluating the effectiveness of programs. It was a pleasure to learn more about the beautiful nation of Zimbabwe from Vimbayi.

## \*Gamma

Gamma Chapter, along with everyone else, has modified and adapted our meetings, so that we can still see each other. President Emily Schaefer hosted our first meeting as a hybrid, some in person and some virtual. Chapter members agreed that for the foreseeable future, we will host all meetings virtually.

In October, State President Ann Braaten shared her presentation on Women's Suffrage. She worked with others across that state, who researched key North Dakota women, who

worked to bring the freedom to vote for females in our state. This timely presentation reminded us of both the gift and responsibility of voting in all elections.

Our November meeting featured Alderwomen Carrie Evans and Lisa Olson from Minot's City Council. Carrie and Lisa shared their experiences as women in leadership within city government. Topics such as running a campaign, managing a busy schedule, working in a man's world and decision making were discussed. Our chapter members had the opportunity to ask both women questions at the end.

Apryl Davenport, graciously sewed and delivered face masks to all of our members who are currently working in a school. The masks were a hit!

International President, Becky Sadowski, nominated Lisa Olson to serve on the 2020/22 International Golden Gift Committee.

Gamma Chapter sadly lost two veteran DKG members this Fall. Lillian Wilson, 110 years



old and Doris Slaaten, 100 years old, were decades long members. Their involvement early on in DKG and their mentorship to younger members was greatly appreciated.

*Dr. Doris Slaaten*

# Chapter Communications

## \*Phi

So much of the summer was different, but Phi Chapter found a safe event. Our group toured two flower gardens. Both beautiful and unique.



Our first stop was Peggy's flowers north of the Robinson exit on 94. Peggy adds antique items within her beautiful flowers. She also has an old pickup surrounded and filled with beautiful flowers.



We then enjoyed a good supper at a local restaurant before heading south of Dawson to David's flowers. The group wondered what they would see after miles of gravel and down a self-made road surrounded by tall evergreen

trees. After arriving in his yard they were so impressed. He told the group he plants around 900 flowers. What a beautiful display that surrounds his whole yard!



One of the ladies said it is like the Peace Gardens, but not so far to drive. It was a nice day with plenty of social distancing.



We held our election. The new officers are Co-Presidents-Wanda Mehlhoff and June Kraft, First Vice President-Emma Berg, Second Vice President-Kitty Mettler, Secretary-Gladys Gerr, Treasurer-Marcia Liuska.



# Chapter Communications

## \*Lambda

Brenda Seehafer, Lambda Chapter President, started her role as the North Dakota Literacy Association (NDLA) President last April. She is working with the rest of her Exec. Board and Full Board to try some new literacy ideas around the state. One thing that they have started offering are some literacy related book studies. One of their chapters is planning a Summer Institute in Jamestown in June of 2021 that is available to all members and non-members. They have a Young Writers Project that members' students can participate in as well.



Becky Hershey, Director of Hospice at the Heart of America Medical Center in Rugby, was our Lambda guest speaker at the October meeting. Her presentation was educational, enlightening, and energizing. Hospice offers nursing services, personal care, emotional

support, spiritual care, assistance with daily tasks, and grief support. Becky has worked in health care for a number of years and shared the Top Seven things she has learned after working with Hospice: make your relationship with God, don't sweat the small stuff, mend relationships, start doing life projects NOW, be merciful, leave a legacy, and take care of yourself and your health.



Lambda has honored to have our state president, Ann Braaten (left), attend our September meeting to share information from the state level. She assisted with the initiation of our new member, Darcy Podoll (center).

# Chapter Communications

## \*Lambda continued

We remember our members who are in assisted living facilities—especially in this time of COVID.

Here is Virginia Fairbrother is playing bingo.



Irene Hager is enjoying making Halloween decorations.



Social distancing and limitations to visitors have certainly been the “new normal,” but our hearts are with these members as we maneuver these uncharted times.

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 4520 37th St SE, Minot, ND 58701  
[thenodaknews@gmail.com](mailto:thenodaknews@gmail.com)